Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) A measuring instrument for detecting a force, including:

- a carrier plate (3),

- a magnet (5),

- a magnetically sensitive element (6), and

- a tongue element (4), which protrudes from the carrier plate (3),

wherein the magnet (5) is disposed on the tongue element (4), on the carrier plate (3), or on both the tongue element (4) and carrier plate (3);

wherein between the tongue element (4) and the carrier plate (3), an air gap (7) is formed, in which the magnetically sensitive element (6) is disposed for detecting a force that produces a relative motion between the magnet (5) and magnetically sensitive element (6), and wherein the force to be detected is applied to the carrier plate (3) or the tongue element (4).

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The measuring instrument for detecting a force of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the measuring instrument has a first magnet (5) and a second magnet (15), the first magnet (5) being disposed on the tongue element (4) and the second magnet (15) being disposed on the carrier plate (3).

5. (currently amended) The measuring instrument for detecting a force of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tongue element (4) is embodied integrally with the carrier plate (3).

6. (currently amended) The measuring instrument for detecting a force of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tongue element (4) is embodied resiliently.

7. (currently amended) The measuring instrument for detecting a force of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the measuring instrument has a stop (12, 13, 14) for limiting the motion of the tongue element (4).

8. (currently amended) The measuring instrument for detecting a force of claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a separate stop (14) is embodied on a plate element (2) which is joined to the tongue element, or that parts (12, 13) of the carrier plate (3) are embodied as a stop for the plate element (2) joined to the tongue element (4).

9. (currently amended) The measuring instrument for detecting a force of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tongue element (4) is embodied as a bar.

10. (currently amended) A method for detecting a force, comprising the following steps:

~~characterized in that~~ converting a force delivered via a movable tongue element (4) ~~is converted~~ into a relative motion between the tongue element (4) and a carrier plate (3), wherein ~~and~~ the relative motion between the tongue element (4) and the carrier plate (3) leads to a change in a magnetic field intensity, which is detectable by a magnetically sensitive element (6) disposed in an air gap (7) between the carrier plate (3) and the tongue element (4), wherein the magnet is disposed on the tongue element (4), on the carrier plate (3), or on both the tongue element (4) and carrier plate (3), and wherein the force to be detected is applied to the carrier plate (3) or the tongue element (4).